

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Ross Complex Papenfuse Land Acquisition

**Project Manager:** Kevin Briggs – NWM-1

**Location:** Clark County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to acquire approximately 2.02-acres of land located adjacent to BPA's Ross Complex, which includes over 200-acres of land. BPA would purchase the rural residential property from a private entity (Papenfuse Lois) who is a willing seller. The property is zoned Low Density Residential-9du/ac (R-9) and would provide BPA's Ross Complex management team operational and developmental flexibility for future use as needed. If future development is proposed for the site, further environmental review will be conducted as appropriate.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 11, 2018

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Ross Complex Papenfuse Land Acquisition

---

## Project Site Description

The scope of this review is limited to the acquisition of the Papenfuse land that is adjacent to BPA's Ross Complex. The land is approximately 2.02-acres in area and contains several trees, as well as a few residential and agricultural structures.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<b>Environmental Resource Impacts</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</b>
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and the acquisition of this parcel does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition and no plants would be affected.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition and no wildlife or habitats would be affected.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition and no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition and no wetlands are present or in close proximity to the project area.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land acquisition and no groundwater, nor aquifers, would be affected.		

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: This review covers the acquisition of this property only, thus no change in land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: This review covers the acquisition of this property only, thus no change in visual quality would occur.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No air quality effects would occur as a result of the acquisition of this land.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: No noise impacts would occur as a result of this land acquisition.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Acquisition of this land would not have an effect on human health and safety. All further activities associated with this land will be reviewed at a later time, if they are proposed.

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

---

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has been coordinating with the landowner regarding the land purchase.

---

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum – ECT-4

Date: December 11, 2018